

and tearing down the Berlin wall, none of these milestones in our history was accomplished by one particular political party. They are a result of public servants coming together to solve the great challenges of our time.

This is the challenge that lies before us: we must find a way to come together to make meaningful progress for the American people.

PEOPLE NEED BETTER HEALTH CARE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from New York (Mr. NADLER) for 5 minutes.

Mr. NADLER. Mr. Speaker, President Trump and Speaker RYAN have said that the Affordable Care Act that we have now is a disaster, that it is a calamity.

There are problems with it. For some people in some plans, premiums are too high.

So what do the Republicans want to do?

Raise the premiums.

For some people in some plans, deductibles are too high.

So what do the Republicans want to do?

Make the deductibles much higher.

Let's get away from the rhetoric about the Affordable Care Act and look at what the Republicans plan to do with the bill that we are going to be voting on presumably in the next few days: raise the premiums, raise the deductibles.

They say that you will not be disqualified for preexisting conditions and that you will still be able to get insurance, but not if you let your coverage lapse in 6 months. If you are laid off from your job and you lose your insurance and 6 months later you get insurance, no, you are going to have to pay a 30 percent higher premium in order to get coverage. So their guarantee is worth nothing.

What does the bill that we are going to be voting on do?

This bill would throw 24 million people off of coverage. Twenty four million Americans would lose their health care, the security of mind that they have now. This bill would destroy about 2 million jobs. This bill would force families to pay higher costs, higher premiums, higher deductibles.

The nonpartisan Congressional Budget Office estimates that a 50- or 60-year-old person making \$26,000 and who, under ObamaCare, is paying, after the subsidies, out of pocket \$1,700 a year for health insurance, will, under this new Republican bill, after the appropriate subsidies that this bill will give, pay not \$1,700, but \$14,000 on a pretax income of \$26,000.

So this bill will increase costs, throw 24 million people off of coverage, and impose an age tax. People above 50 years old will have to pay five times as much as younger people for insurance, a very crushing age tax.

Why? Why do this?

Because they say people need more freedom to choose their health care.

People don't need more freedom to choose their health care. People need better health care. They need coverage. They need security. They need coverage that will take care of their health needs at a low cost. That is what they need.

The ObamaCare, the existing bill that we have, the Affordable Care Act, gives them that, not as well as it should. We should make improvements to it. It is not an improvement to throw 24 million people off of coverage, increase the cost, and institute a crushing age tax.

Why?

It is to give a tax benefit of \$2.8 billion to the richest 400 families in the United States. This bill would be the largest transfer of wealth from low- and mostly middle-income people to the top 1 percent in American history.

Let me just address one last thing. People are being bribed to vote for this bill. People are being bribed legally. Provisions are being put in the bill to say: Hey, if you vote for this bill, you will benefit, your State will benefit.

Okay. There is nothing wrong with that. It has been done before.

Let's take a look at one of those bribes, the so-called New York bribe. New York, along with 15 other States, takes advantage or utilizes a provision in the law that has been in the law since 1965 in Medicaid in which the State share of Medicaid is borne partially by the State and partially by local governments. Sixteen States have elected to do that.

This bill says that New York State only will be prohibited from sharing the burden of Medicaid with local governments. So \$2.3 billion will be shifted from various local governments onto the State's taxpayers, except for New York City. Upstate counties will lose their share. New York City will have to keep it. The State will have to bear the burden. So it is a \$2.3 billion increase for State taxpayers.

Now, eight Republicans, we are told, from upstate New York are going to vote for this bill just because of that. They don't like the bill in other respects, but because of that provision, which will relieve some of the burden from local counties, they are going to vote for the bill; and they say so. Representative COLLINS of New York said so. He would vote for that bill. He got a number of other people to agree. That is why the provision is in the bill.

Okay. But it is not going to happen. It is flatly unconstitutional. They are selling their votes for something that is never going to happen, and that is just wrong. This bill should not be approved. It is a sellout to the people of the entire country.

BUILD ON AFFORDABLE COVERAGE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from Florida (Ms. CASTOR) for 5 minutes.

Ms. CASTOR of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I am here today on the floor of the House to speak out on behalf of my neighbors back home in the State of Florida. I represent a district in the Tampa Bay area. Let me tell you, they are very concerned about the impact of this Republican healthcare bill.

What we know about the bill so far, based upon the report of the nonpartisan Congressional Budget Office, is that the Republican bill will rip coverage away from at least 24 million Americans. This is at a time when we have made such progress since the adoption of the Affordable Care Act.

Under the Affordable Care Act, about 20 million Americans have gained coverage, including about 1.7 million of my neighbors in Florida that went shopping on healthcare.gov and found an affordable option.

The Republican bill would take us backwards. It would also impose huge cost increases on everyone. Let me tell you, most people in America have their insurance through their employer. And under the Affordable Care Act—it hasn't been perfect—what we have seen in the State of Florida between the years 2010 and 2015 is the rate of increase for my neighbors who have their insurance through their jobs has been kept in check. The rate of increase has only been 1.3 percent. Before the adoption of the Affordable Care Act, the rate of increase was well over 8 percent.

Why is this happening?

If you have insurance through your job, you want other people to have insurance coverage. That is very important because, if more Americans don't have insurance coverage, they show up in the emergency room and that cost is passed along to those who have coverage or those on Medicare, or the hospital has to take on bad debt, or local governments have to raise taxes to cover that care.

Under this Republican bill, hold on to your wallet because that insurance coverage now will be unaffordable for millions of more Americans. If you have insurance through your job, like most people do, you are now going to end up picking up the cost of people that can no longer afford coverage.

If you are a little bit older, easing into Medicare—maybe you are 50 to 64—hold on to your wallet. There is a huge age tax in this Republican bill.

I will give you an example from a neighbor of mine back home. Her name is Kathy Palmer. She lives in Tampa. She works two part-time jobs. She works for an accountant. It is a small business. They cannot afford to provide insurance through their small business. She is also working to get her degree in accountancy from the University of South Florida. Kathy has two part-time jobs. She is age 60. She is going to school to get a degree. She has a teenager in high school. She couldn't afford insurance coverage before the Affordable Care Act. When the Affordable Care Act was adopted, she could go